

REMARKS

Responsive to the requirement in the Official Action, new drawings (along with annotated sheets) are submitted herewith.

The claims of the present application include the feature that "said central insulating layer has a greater hardness than said outer insulating layer". This is a critical feature of applicants' invention. This explained at page 14, lines 14-23 of the present specification. Specifically, with reference to the ratio of hardness of the respective insulating layers, applicants state that:

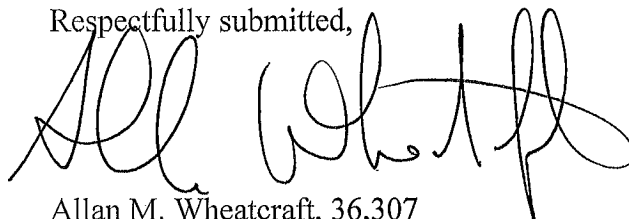
This is explained further with reference to Fig. 9. During the compression process exerted by means of extrusion punches 25a, 25b, elongation of the outer insulation 23a, 23b occurs by wrapping of the corresponding round conductor 13a to 17b during shaping. During this compression process, which is indicated by white arrows, the outer insulation material must be elongated. The resistance to elongation of the outer insulation material, indicated by round arrows 31a and 31b, must be smaller than the mechanical resistance force of the spacer insulator 21 against its residual deformation, indicated in Fig. 9 with a straight double arrow 33. This is achieved in that insulation materials with lower resistance force to transverse elongation are processed for the outer insulation, but materials with higher hardness are used for the spacer insulator 21.

By contrast, there is no disclosure in Suzuki, the cited reference, regarding the respective hardness of the central and outer insulating layers. Although each material can be made of PTFE, there is no disclosure of the relative hardnesses of the materials selected for each layer. In fact, the exemplary materials used in Suzuki and cited in the Official Action would result in the inverse hardness ratio from that claimed. Specifically, the Official Action states that, "the central insulating layer (2) has a greater hardness than the outer insulating layer (upper and bottom 3, i.e. insulating material 2 is porous PTFE, wherein the outer insulating layer solid PTFE) . . . " This construction would produce a ratio OPPOSITE to that in the present claims: the outer solid PTFE of Suzuki would have GREATER hardness than the central porous PTFE. Because this is exactly opposite from the claimed ratio, the reference cannot render

the claims unpatentable under 35 USC 102(b). The Suzuki reference in fact teaches away from applicants' claimed invention.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "All Wheatcraft", written over the typed name.

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